

Message Text

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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 894

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: UNIFIL GOES ON

REF: STATE 79078

1. I CALLED ON SIILASVUO NOON MARCH 28 TO GET READOUT ON HIS MEETING WITH GENERAL GUR PREVIOUS AFTERNOON. GUR HAD REITERATED WEIZMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT GOI COULD NOT HOLD OFF MUCH LONGER IN LIGHT OF CONTINUING PALESTINIAN SHELLING OF NORTHERN ISRAEL (UN HAS INFORMATION TWO IDF SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN WOUNDED BY SUCH SHELLING). HE ASKED SIILASVUO WHAT ISRAEL SHOULD DO.

2. SIILASVUO NOTED ERSKINS AND JONAH WOULD SEE ARAFAT IN BEIRUT MARCH 28 AND URGED IDF DO NOTHING FOR THE TIME BEING. GUR AGREED.

3. SIILASVUO TOLD ME ERSKINE AND JONAH WOULD ALSO TRY
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TO SEE BOUTROS AND KHOURY TO AGAIN URGE THAT ADVANCE ELEMENTS OF LEBANESE ARMY BE SENT TO SOUTHERN LEBANON QUICKLY. HE WAS PLEASED WITH PRIME MINISTER HOSS' VISIT TO TYRE AND HE THOUGHT SOME LEBANESE ARMY UNITS SHOULD ALSO ESTABLISH PRESENCE THERE ALONG WITH FRENCH CONTINGENT OF UNIFIL.

4. EVEN MORE PRESSING IN SIILASVUO'S VIEW IS NEED FOR A SENIOR LEBANESE ARMY REP TO BE PRESENT AT UN FIELD HQ AT NAQUORA. THIS INDIVIDUAL SHOULD HAVE AUTHORITY FOR ON-THE-SOFT LIAISON WITH BOTH UN AND IDF AND SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO TALK TO HADDAD.

5. WHEN I SAID WE WOULD BE WEIGHING IN INDEPENDENTLY WITH GOL ON RAPID DISPATCH OF LEBANESE ARMY TO SOUTH, SIILASVUO THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL.

6. SIILASVUO AGREES COMPLETELY WITH OUR APPROACH IN STATE 79078. HE WANTS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO GOL'S WISHES TO EXTENT HIS RESOURCES AND THE POLITICAL/MILITARY SITUATION PERMIT. WHEN THE NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT IS IN PLACE AND LEBANESE ARMY UNITS ARRIVE IN THE AREA, HE WILL CONSIDER HOW BEST TO HANDLE THE DIFFICULT CASES OF HASBAYYA, BEAUFORT CASTLE AND NABATIYAH.

7. AS FOR UNIFIL, SIILASVUO SAID THINGS WERE PROCEEDING APACE. SWEDES HAD TAKEN UP POSITION AT KHARDALA BRIDGE. IRANIANS WERE ON AKIYA BRIDGE. FRENCH WERE IN TYRE AND AT POINT BETWEEN TYRE AND KASMIYA BRIDGE.

8. HADDAD AND HIS FRIENDS REPRESENT A SPECIAL PROBLEM. SIILASVUO'S CURRENT THINKING IS TO HAVE LEBANESE ARMY UNITS INITIALLY AT THE LITANI BRIDGES AND ALONG THE
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PRESENT LINE OF UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT. ONLY GRADUALLY WILL HE ENCOURAGE THEM TO MOVE SOUTH AS IDF WITHDRAWS.

9. GUR ASKED MARCH 27 WHAT IDF COULD DO FOR SIILASVUO. HE REPLIED THAT CONSTANT MEDIA EXPOSURE AND DECLARATIONS BY HADDAD WERE DECIDEDLY UNHELPFUL, ALSO FOR ISRAEL. GUR AGREED AND PROMISED TO TRY TO REDUCE WATTAGE OF SPOTLIGHT.

10. FOR DEPARTMENT AND USUN: SIILASVUO'S FRANKNESS WITH US HAS GOTTEN HIM IN DUTCH WITH UNNY. PLEASE DO NOT USE ABOVE IN DISCUSSION WITH UN SECRETARIAT. FURTHER DETAILS AND COMMENT ON THIS PROBLEM BY SEPTTEL.
NEWLIN

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